

CLAIMS

[1] A content distribution system including a server for storing at least one piece of content containing a plurality of resources and a receiving terminal for receiving the content distributed from the server, wherein

the server comprises:

a content storage section operable to store the content which contains an upper-level resource to be first referred to within the content, at least one lower-level resource that can be referred to from the upper-level resource, and a startup document providing at least a plurality of pieces of license information, corresponding to either one of reference destination information of the upper-level resource and a predetermined usage rule, for identifying a view license required for viewing all or a part of the resources contained in the content; and in which information for referring to a startup document of other content is described in link information for accessing resources of other content; and

a communication processing section operable to receive a presentation request for a resource from the receiving terminal, and when the requested resource is not the startup document, to present the resource to the receiving terminal and when the requested resource is the startup document, to present the upper-level resource to the receiving terminal and to provide the receiving terminal with the plurality of pieces of license information based on a description of the startup document, and

the receiving terminal comprises:

a communication processing section operable to receive the plurality of pieces of license information provided from the server; and

5 a view processing section operable, each time a plurality of pieces of license information are provided, to set, for view processing, a plurality of view licenses identified by the plurality of pieces of license information and to execute view processing on a resource provided from the server by using the
10 set plurality of view licenses.

[2] The content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of view licenses are previously stored in the server and the receiving terminal obtains from the server the
15 plurality of view licenses set for view processing.

[3] The content distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising a license server having previously stored the plurality of view licenses therein, wherein
20 the receiving terminal obtains from the license server the plurality of view licenses which are set for view processing.

[4] The content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the receiving terminal further comprises a content storage
25 section operable to store all content or a part thereof which the

server has stored.

[5] A server for storing at least one content which contains a plurality of resources distributed to the receiving terminal, comprising:

5 a content storage section operable to store the content which contains an upper-level resource to be first referred to within the content, at least one lower-level resource that can be referred to from the upper-level resource, and a startup document
10 providing at least a plurality of pieces of license information, corresponding to reference destination information of the upper-level resource or a predetermined usage rule, for identifying a view license required for viewing all or a part of the resources contained in the content, and in which information for referring
15 to a startup document of other content is described in link information for accessing resources of other content; and

a communication processing section operable to receive a presentation request for a resource from the receiving terminal, and when the requested resource is not the startup document, to
20 present the resource to the receiving terminal and when the requested resource is the startup document, to present the upper-level resource to the receiving terminal and to provide the receiving terminal with the plurality of pieces of license information based on a description of the startup document.

[6] A receiving terminal for receiving a content distributed from a server having stored therein at least one content which contains a plurality of resources, comprising:

a communication processing section operable to, each
5 time a content containing a resource to be presented is altered, receive from the server a plurality of pieces of license information, corresponding to a predetermined usage rule, for identifying view licenses required for viewing all or a part of the resources contained in the content; and

10 a view processing section operable, each time the plurality of pieces of license information are provided, to set, for view processing, a plurality of view licenses identified by the plurality of pieces of license information and to execute view processing of the resources provided from the server by using the
15 set plurality of view licenses.

[7] A license management method for implementing a content distribution system comprising a server for storing at least one content containing a plurality of resources and a receiving
20 terminal for receiving the content distributed from the server, wherein,

a plurality of pieces of license information for each
piece of content, corresponding to a predetermined usage rule, for identifying view licenses required for viewing all or a part
25 of the resources contained in the content are prepared in the server;

when a content containing a resource of which presentation is requested from the receiving terminal is altered, the server provides a plurality of pieces of license information associated with a new piece of content; and

5 when the plurality of pieces of license information are provided from the server, the receiving terminal executes view processing on a resource distributed from the server by using any of a plurality of view licenses identified by the plurality of pieces of license information until a next new provision of license
10 information.

[8] The license management method according to claim 7, wherein

the content comprises:

15 an upper-level resource which is first referred to within the content;

at least one lower-level resource which can be referred to from the upper-level resource; and

20 a startup document which provides reference destination information of the upper-level resource and the plurality of pieces of license information, and

in the content, information for referring to a startup document of other resources is described in link information for accessing resources of other content,

25 the server is operable to execute:

a step of presenting a requested resource to the receiving terminal when the resource of which presentation is requested from the receiving terminal is not a startup document; and

5 a step of presenting the upper-level resource and providing the plurality of pieces of license information to the receiving terminal based on a description of the startup document when the resource of which presentation is requested is the startup document, and

10 the receiving terminal is operable to execute:

a reception step of receiving the plurality of pieces of license information provided from the server;

a setting step of setting the plurality of view licenses, for view processing, identified by the plurality of
15 pieces of license information each time the plurality of pieces of license information are provided; and

an execution step of executing view processing of a resource distributed from the server by using any of the set plurality of view licenses.

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[9] The license management method according to claim 8, wherein

in respective pieces of license information of the startup document, information for identifying view licenses having
25 at least one decryption key provided for resources in the content

is described, and

at the setting step executed by the receiving terminal,
the plurality of view licenses set by the identification
information is identified and at the execution step, decryption
5 of resources by using keys which the identified plurality of view
licenses contain is performed.

[10] The license management method according to claim 9,
wherein

10 respective encrypted resources and information
representing a relationship of correspondence with keys for
decrypting codes on the resources are further described in the
respective pieces of license information of the startup documents,
and

15 at the execution step of the receiving terminal, by
referring to the relationship of correspondence, keys for
decryption of the resources are uniquely identified.

[11] The license management method according to claim 8,
20 wherein

at the receiving step of the receiving terminal, the
plurality of view licenses which are set at the setting step are
obtained from the server.

25 [12] The license management method according to claim 8,

wherein

at the receiving step of the receiving terminal, the plurality of view licenses which are set at the setting step are obtained from a license server other than the server.

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[13] The license management method according to claim 8, wherein

the plurality of pieces of license information are described in a license-corresponding document, and reference
10 destination information of the license-corresponding document is described in the startup document.

[14] A program executed in a content distribution system including a server having stored therein at least one piece of
15 content comprising a plurality of resources and a receiving terminal for receiving contents from the server, wherein

by using the content which contains an upper-level resource to be first referred to within the content, at least one lower-level resource that can be referred to from the upper-level
20 resource and a startup document where at least a plurality of pieces of license information, corresponding to reference destination information of the upper-level resource and a predetermined usage rule, for identifying view licenses required for viewing all or a part of the resources contained in the content are described;
25 and in which information for referring to a startup document of

other content is described in link information for accessing resources in other content,

the server is operable to execute:

5 a presentation step of presenting to the receiving terminal a resource to which access is requested when the resource access request received from the receiving terminal is not a reference of the startup document; and

10 a provision step of, based on a description in the startup document, presenting the upper-level resource and providing the plurality of pieces of license information, to the receiving terminal, when the resource access request received from the receiving terminal is a reference of the startup document,

the receiving terminal is operable to execute:

15 a reception step of receiving the plurality of pieces of license information provided from the server;

a setting step of setting the plurality of view licenses, for view processing, identified by the plurality of pieces of license information each time the plurality of pieces of license information are provided; and

20 an execution step of executing view processing of the resource distributed from the server by using the set plurality of view licenses.

[15] A recording medium having stored therein a program
25 executed in a content distribution system including a server having

stored therein at least one piece of content containing a plurality of resources and a receiving terminal for receiving the content distribution from the server; and being computer-readable,

by using the content which contains an upper-level
5 resource to be first referred to within the content, at least one lower-level resource that can be referred to from the upper-level resource, and a startup document which provides at least a plurality of pieces of license information, corresponding to reference destination information of the upper-level resource and a
10 predetermined usage rule, for identifying view licenses required for viewing all or a part of the resources contained in the content are described, and in which information for referring to a startup document of other content is described in link information for accessing resources in other content,

15 the server is operable to execute:

a presentation step of presenting to the receiving terminal a resource of which presentation is requested when the resource of which presentation is requested from the receiving terminal is not the startup document; and

20 a provision step of, based on a description of the startup document, presenting the upper-level resource and providing the plurality of pieces of license information, to the receiving terminal, when the resource of which presentation is requested from the receiving terminal is the startup document,

25 the receiving terminal is operable to execute:

a reception step of receiving the plurality of pieces of license information provided from the server;

a setting step of setting a plurality of view licenses, for view processing, identified by the plurality of
5 pieces of license information each time the plurality of pieces of license information are provided; and

an execution step of executing view processing of the resource distributed from the server by using any of the set plurality of view licenses.